

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- Sub
Att
- 1 1. A method of manufacturing a personal care product comprising:
 - 2 Applying a grip to a handle of a personal care product, the grip comprising a core and a
 - 3 sheath surrounding the core, the sheath having a hardness greater than the core.
 - 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the core is an elastomeric material.
 - 1 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the elastomeric material is a thermoplastic elastomer.
 - 1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the group
 - 2 consisting of thermoplastic vulcanates (rubber polyolefin blends), polyetheramides,
 - 3 polyesters, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene (SEBS) block copolymers, styrene-
 - 4 butadiene-styrene (SBS) block copolymers, partially or fully hydrogenated styrene-
 - 5 butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers,
 - 6 polyurethanes, polyolefin elastomers, polyolefin plastomers, styrenic based polyolefin
 - 7 elastomers, and compatible mixtures thereof.
 - 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the core has a hardness of less than 50 Shore A.
 - 1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the core has a hardness of less than 25 Shore A.
 - 1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the core has a hardness of less than 10 Shore A.
 - 1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the sheath is an elastomeric material.
 - 1 9. The method of claim 8 wherein the elastomeric material is a thermoplastic elastomer.
 - 1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the group
 - 2 consisting of thermoplastic vulcanates (rubber polyolefin blends), polyetheramides,
 - 3 polyesters, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene (SEBS) block copolymers, styrene-
 - 4 butadiene-styrene (SBS) block copolymers, partially or fully hydrogenated styrene-
 - 5 butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers,

- 6 polyurethanes, polyolefin elastomers, polyolefin plastomers, styrenic based polyolefin
7 elastomers, and compatible mixtures thereof.
- 1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the sheath is approximately 0.4 mm to 4.0 mm thick.
- 1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the sheath is approximately 0.5 mm to 2.0 mm thick.
- 1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the sheath is approximately 0.5 mm to 1.0 mm thick.
- 1 14. The method of claim 1 wherein the sheath has a hardness of approximately 25 Shore A to
2 80 Shore A.
- 1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the sheath has a hardness of approximately 30 Shore A
2 to 60 Shore A.
- 1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the sheath has a hardness of approximately 40 Shore A
2 to 55 Shore A.
- 1 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the personal care product is selected from the group
2 consisting of toothbrushes and razors.
- 1 18. A method of manufacturing a toothbrush comprising:
2 (a) forming a toothbrush handle; and
3 (b) sandwich molding onto the handle a grip comprising a core and a sheath
4 surrounding the core, the sheath having a hardness greater than that of the core.
- 1 19. A method of manufacturing a razor comprising:
2 (c) forming a razor handle; and
3 (d) sandwich molding onto the handle a grip comprising a core and a sheath
4 surrounding the core, the sheath having a hardness greater than that of the core.
- 1 20. A method of manufacturing a personal care product comprising:

2 applying to a handle of a personal care product a grip comprising a core and a sheath
3 surrounding the core.

1 21. A personal care product comprising:

2 (e) a handle; and

3 (f) a grip formed on the handle, the grip comprising a core and a sheath surrounding the
4 core, the sheath having a hardness greater than the core.

1 22. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the core is a elastomeric material.

1 23. The personal care product of claim 22 wherein the elastomeric material is a thermoplastic
2 elastomer.

1 24. The personal care product of claim 23 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected
2 from the group consisting of thermoplastic vulcanates (rubber polyolefin blends),
3 polyetheramides, polyesters, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene (SEBS) block copolymers,
4 styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS) block copolymers, partially or fully hydrogenated styrene-
5 butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers,
6 polyurethanes, polyolefin elastomers, polyolefin plastomers, styrenic based polyolefin
7 elastomers, and compatible mixtures thereof.

1 25. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the core has a hardness of less than 50
2 Shore A.

1 26. The personal care product of claim 25 wherein the core has a hardness of less than 25
2 Shore A.

1 27. The personal care product of claim 26 wherein the core has a hardness of less than 10
2 Shore A.

1 28. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the sheath is an elastomeric material.

A) 1 29. The personal care product of claim 28 wherein the elastomeric material is a thermoplastic
2 elastomer.

1 30. The personal care product of claim 29 wherein the thermoplastic elastomer is selected
2 from the group consisting of thermoplastic vulcanates (rubber polyolefin blends),
3 polyetheramides, polyesters, styrene-ethylene-butylene-styrene (SEBS) block copolymers,
4 styrene-butadiene-styrene (SBS) block copolymers, partially or fully hydrogenated styrene-
5 butadiene-styrene block copolymers, styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymers,
6 polyurethanes, polyolefin elastomers, polyolefin plastomers, styrenic based polyolefin
7 elastomers, and compatible mixtures thereof.

1 31. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the sheath is approximately 0.4 mm to 4.0
2 mm thick.

1 32. The personal care product of claim 31 wherein the sheath is approximately 0.5 mm to 2.0
2 mm thick.

1 33. The personal care product of claim 32 wherein the sheath is approximately 0.5 mm to 1.0
2 mm thick.

1 34. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the sheath has a hardness of
2 approximately 25 Shore A to 80 Shore A.

1 35. The personal care product of claim 34 wherein the sheath has a hardness of
2 approximately 30 Shore A to 60 Shore A.

1 36. The personal care product of claim 35 wherein the sheath has a hardness of
2 approximately 40 Shore A to 55 Shore A.

1 37. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the handle is a toothbrush handle.

1 38. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the handle is a razor handle.

A/ 1 39. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the handle is a hairbrush handle.

1 40. A toothbrush comprising:

2 (a) a toothbrush handle; and

3 (b) a grip formed on the handle, the grip comprising a core and a sheath
4 surrounding the core, the sheath having a hardness greater than the core.

1 41. A razor comprising:

2 (a) a razor handle; and

3 (b) a grip formed on the handle, the grip comprising a core and a sheath
4 surrounding the core, the sheath having a hardness greater than the core.

1 42. A toothbrush comprising:

2 (a) a handle; and

3 (b) a grip formed on the handle, the grip comprising a core and a sheath
4 surrounding the core.

1 43. A razor comprising:

2 (a) a razor handle; and

3 (b) a grip formed on the handle, the grip comprising a core and a sheath
4 surrounding the core.

1 44. A method of manufacturing a personal care product comprising:

2 (a) applying to a handle of personal care product a grip comprising a first layer, a
3 second outer layer surrounding the first layer; and

4 (b) forming a hollow core within the first layer by injecting a gas into the middle
5 of the first layer.

1 45. A personal care product comprising:

2 (a) a handle, and

3 (b) a grip formed on the handle, the grip comprising a first layer, a second outer
4 layer surrounding the first layer, and a hollow core within the first layer.

1 46. The personal care product of claim 21 wherein the core further comprises a foaming
2 agent.

1 47. A handheld household appliance comprising:

2 (a) a handle; and

3 (b) a grip formed on the handle, the grip comprising a core and a sheath
4 surrounding the core.

1 48. The handheld household appliance of claim 47 wherein the sheath has a hardness greater
2 than the core.